

which has no essential connection with variola, but which might have been developed as well by any attack of fever, *specific or non-specific*.

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*Vaccination and Smallpox, in regard to the Child-Bearing Woman, and the Fœtus in Utero.* By RICHARD MCSHERRY, M. D., Surgeon U. S. N.

Dr. Steuart mentioned a case to me, which had come under his observation, where a woman eight months gone with child was vaccinated after exposure to the contagion of smallpox. She escaped the disease, but her child, born two weeks later, was covered with the confluent form, and died within an hour after its birth.

A singularly opposite case observed by Dr. Hennen (see affinities and prophylaxis of variola in the January (1852) No. of this Journal) is casually mentioned by Dr. Dendy. "A woman was delivered while suffering from confluent variola; the infant was vaccinated a few hours after birth. The mother died on the 11th day; the infant had true vaccine and lived." There is no uniformity as to the fœtus taking or escaping the disease in the mother; in the case just cited it had escaped altogether, or possibly *during incubation*; the vaccine disease superseded the slower attack of the variola. The late Dr. Smith, of this city, vaccine agent and physician, who probably performed more vaccinations than any other man in this country, assured Dr. Steuart that he had repeatedly inserted vaccine and variolous matters in the same person at the same time, and that the cowpox *uniformly* took first possession, and entirely superseded the smallpox. It is by no means uncommon for vaccination to exert a restraining influence over the more formidable disease when practised during its incubation, some interesting cases of which are recorded by Dr. Young in the October (1851) No. of this Journal. In the same number, a case is recorded by Dr. Gibbs, in which variolous inoculation was practised three days after a doubtful vaccination (the scab was several years old), but the vaccination held its vantage-ground, ran its course, and rendered the inoculation abortive.

The fœtus does not take necessarily the form of disease under which the mother labours; it may take the disease through her, after exposure, while she escapes entirely. Dr. Mead, it appears, was of opinion that, where a mother passed through an attack of variola without aborting, the child remained protected through life. The opinion may be fanciful, but the following case, related by Dr. Storer, to the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, gives it some support. Dr. S. attended a lady through a severe attack of variola in the eighth month of pregnancy. He dreaded miscarriage, which did not occur. Five weeks and four days from the appearance of the eruption he delivered her of a fine healthy child, upon which he expected to find some marks of the infection. It was, however, perfectly free from them. He afterwards vaccinated the child *twice* with perfect virus, not yet dried upon the quills, but both times unsuccessfully.

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*Case of Blighted Fœtus retained to Full Period.* By THORNTON K. WOOSTER, M. D., of Winchester, Iowa.—On the 3d day of April, 1853, I was called to Mrs. S—, æt. 43, the mother of several children. She had been suffering from considerable pain in the uterus for several days, which had this morning become very severe. She now experienced severe labour-pains, according to her expression, although she did not believe herself pregnant. There was a discharge per vaginam of a fluid much resembling the menstrual fluid. On more particular inquiry I learned that nine months previously she had cohabited, and she positively declared that she had no connection with any man after that time. For some time after this connection she believed

that she had become pregnant; her abdomen began to enlarge; her menstrual discharge ceased; and everything indicated a state of pregnancy. Matters continued thus until the expiration of about four months, when, after some labourious exertion, she experienced severe and lancinating pain in the region of the uterus, which continued more or less for some days, and then entirely ceased.

From this time she noticed that her abdomen ceased to enlarge, and in fact did not seem to be so large as it was previously. She now believed that she had not been pregnant, but that the *turn of life* had come on at the time she had ceased to menstruate. She after this continued in her usual health, and had engaged in her ordinary occupation until the morning I was called in.

Upon a vaginal examination, I found the mouth of the uterus slightly dilated and low down. A violent pain came on, when a dead fœtus was expelled, of apparently four months, and shortly after the placenta; both in a state of putrescence. The length of the fœtus was five inches, and weight four ounces—the limbs were all developed—and it seemed a well-formed fœtus.

As the patient declared she had become connected with no man after the first cessation of her menstrual discharge, we have no reason to doubt that she conceived at that time; and that the death of the fœtus took place at the period she first experienced the pain in the uterus, four months after conception.

The dead fœtus was consequently retained for the term of five months in the uterus, and at the expiration of nine months after she first conceived, "which is the regular term of gestation," was expelled by a natural labour.

*Chronological Table of Medical Writers.* (Communicated by Professor C. D. MEIGS.)

SIR: The following chronological table of medical writers was copied out, many years ago, from the side notes in René Moreau's *Treatise de Sanguinis Missione in Pleuritide*, 12mo., 1622. The arrangement of these chronological facts in tabular form renders them convenient for reference; and, as Moreau's opinions on medical chronology and biography are esteemed very reliable, he being frequently referred to as one of the highest authorities, I beg you to consider whether this table is worthy of a place in your valuable journal. Moreau's book is now an exceedingly rare one, and your American readers may perhaps feel obliged to you for laying the abstract before them. I, as a subscriber, should be glad to have it in print.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obed. serv't,

C. D. MEIGS.

Dr. ISAAC HAYS.

GREEKS.	Podalirius, A. M.	2830	ROMANS.	} Aurelius Cornelius Celsus, 20-30
	Asclepiades, B. C.	63		
	Archigenes, A. D.	120		
	Galen, <i>circa</i> ,	140		
	Aretæus, <i>circa</i> ,	150	ARABIANS.	} Octavius Horatianus 400
	Stephanus Atheniensis	00		
	Absyrtus, <i>circa</i> ,	330		
	Oribasius, <i>circa</i> ,	330		
	Aetius, <i>circa</i> ,	350		
	Alexander Trallianus,	360		
	Paulus Aegineta,	380		
	Nonus,	950		
	Actuarius,	1100		
	Nicolaus Myrepsus,	1200		